

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5 and 11 remain in this application. Claim 4 has been canceled along with non-elected claims 6-10, the latter being canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to present such claims in a continuing application. Claims 1, 2 and 5 have been amended in response to the rejections herein under 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §103. Claim 11 of the application has been added based on disclosure in paragraph [0016] of the application as filed.

Reconsideration of this application in view of these amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 of the application were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, claim 1 being objected to for including inconsistent claim language. In response to that rejection claim 1 has been amended to "consisting essentially of" form, claim 2 has been amended to remove the term "essentially", claim 4 has been canceled, and claim 5 has been amended to expressly recite the aqueous nature of the claimed alkali silicate solutions. Basis for the amendments to claims 1 and 5 is found in claims 9 and 10 and in paragraphs [0013], [0036] and [0037] of the application as filed. Basis for new claim 11 is found in paragraph [0017] of the application as filed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. §112 in light of these amendments are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 of the application were additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as fully met by either of U.S. Patents Nos. 6,464,774 to Satoh or 1,606,481 to Rochow. Reconsideration and withdrawal of that rejection are respectfully requested in light of the amendments to claim 1 and the following comments.

Neither of Satoh or Rochow teach cement compositions containing one of the recited cordierite, silicon carbide, silicon nitride, aluminum titanate, or calcium aluminate powders in plastically shapeable mixtures with alkali silicate materials. As the Applicants disclose in paragraphs [0010]-[0013] of the application as filed, cementing compositions for plugging porous ceramic honeycomb bodies must not only solidify upon simple drying to form plugs that are intimately sealed to the channel walls of porous ceramic honeycombs without post-firing, but must also include ceramic powders providing physical characteristics including thermal expansion characteristics that are similar to those of the honeycombs to be plugged. Satoh and Rochow do not disclose the Applicants' ceramic powders, or provide information from which cements containing those powders (and therefore having utility for plugging ceramic filters of the compositions described) could be identified.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3 and 5 as amended define subject matter not anticipated by Satoh or Rochow, and therefore that those claims are allowable. Further, because Satoh and Rochow do not disclose combinations of the claimed cements with the recited ceramic honeycombs, it is believed that claim 11 is patentable over the cited patents as well.

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that the remaining claims of this application are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly favorable reconsideration of this application and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance herein are courteously solicited.

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Amdt. Dated: October 12, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: July 12, 2005

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Reply timely, but contingently request that the Office grant such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as is necessary to make this Reply timely, if in fact such an extension is required. In that contingency the Office is hereby authorized to charge any necessary extension fee or surcharge to the deposit account of Corning Incorporated, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Respectfully submitted,



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